

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An actuator panel for a control system on a powered machine having a frame having a pivoting control lever, said control lever having a shaft  
5 portion extending outwardly from a pivot axis of the control lever, the control system and the control lever being mounted on the frame for controlling a ground drive for the frame, the actuator panel being pivotally mounted on said frame, said actuator panel  
10 being urged in a first direction extending outwardly from the frame, and having an actuator bracket mounted thereon adjacent to the shaft portion, the actuator bracket moving to engage the control lever and to move the control lever to a selected position  
15 from a first position when the actuator panel pivots toward the frame.

2. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said frame is the frame of a machine that is self-  
20 propelled, and said control controls movement of the frame in a direction of movement such the actuator panel is leading the movement, the actuator panel pivoting in an opposite direction to move the control lever to its neutral position.

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3. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said actuator bracket is adjustably mounted on the actuator panel.

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4. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein said actuator panel is pivotally mounted on the frame at a first location adjacent the rear of the powered machine, and tapers rearwardly and downwardly at an angle.

5. The actuator panel of claim 1, wherein the control lever is mounted on a valve block, an actuator spool in said valve block and said actuator spool being linearly moveable and having a portion pivotally mounted to the lever at a second pivot spaced from the pivot of the lever to the valve block, the control lever including an actuator rod extending in a direction toward the pivoting actuator panel.

6. The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said valve block has a pair of spools, and two levers, each of the levers controlling movement of a drive for the machine frame, in fore and aft directions of movement, said levers being engageable with the actuator bracket in a first position of each of said levers which causes the frame to be propelled.

7. The actuator panel of claim 5, wherein said valve block is mounted adjacent a rear panel of the frame, said actuator panel being pivotally mounted to the rear portion of the frame and to the rear of said valve block, the actuator rod on said control lever

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fasteners to secure the actuator bracket to the pivoting panel.

11. A powered machine having a frame, drive  
5 members on opposite sides of said frame controllable  
by hydraulic motors, the powered machine being  
operable by an operator standing on the surface  
supporting the machine, and at the rear of the  
machine, a hydraulic control valve at the rear of the  
10 machine and having valves with actuator levers for  
controlling the respective motors for driving the  
drive members to move the machine in forward and  
selectively reverse directions as well as having a  
neutral position, the actuator levers extending above  
15 the frame for manual operation by an operator  
standing at the rear of the machine, and a pivoting  
actuator mounted to the frame and having a portion  
that extends outwardly from the rear of the frame,  
said actuator having a bracket mounted thereon, said  
20 actuator being urged to extend outwardly from the  
machine under a bias force, and being pivotable to  
move inwardly when a force is provided on the  
actuator tending to move the actuator toward the rear  
of the frame, said bracket engaging a portion of the  
25 respective lever when the respective lever is in a  
position to drive the respective drive member in  
reverse and moveable to a position under such force  
to move the respective levers to their stopped  
position.

12. The machine of claim 11, wherein said actuator comprises an actuator panel extending laterally across the rear portions of the frame, and having brackets for pivotally mounting the panel on  
5 opposite sides of the frame.

13. The machine of claim 11, wherein the portion of the lever comprises actuator rods extending outwardly from the levers, and said levers  
10 being pivotally mounted to the valve for pivotal movement between its positions.

14. The machine of claim 12, wherein said actuator panel inclines rearwardly and downwardly  
15 from its pivotal mounting.

15. The machine of claim 12, wherein said actuator panel has a pair of mounting brackets that are pivotally mounted to side members of the frame,  
20 said mounting brackets extending rearwardly through openings in a rear wall of the frame, the actuator panel having a lower portion that extends outwardly from the rear of the frame a greater distance than an upper portion, whereby forces engaging the lower  
25 portion tend to pivot the actuator panel to a position to move the levers from a rearward drive position to the stopped position.

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